



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AWARD WINNING SCIENCE TEACHER; RENOWNED PUBLIC POLICY EXPERT, ELECTED CHAIR, VICE CHAIR OF COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

SACRAMENTO – An award winning high school science teacher and renowned public policy expert were elected by members of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) to serve as the 2009 Commission Chair and Vice Chair, at the December 11-12, 2009 meeting. **Caleb Cheung** and **Margaret Gaston** thanked their fellow Commissioners for the opportunity to lead the Commission next year and to engage in the continuing dialog, thoughtful policy development and collegiality that characterizes the Commission. Mr. Cheung and Ms. Gaston will serve as Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission through December 2009.

Mr. Cheung is a science program manager for the Oakland Unified School District. He previously served as the science department chair at Frick Middle School in Oakland. Mr. Cheung has also worked as an adjunct professor at JFK University and Holy Names College where he taught science teaching methodology courses.

Mr. Cheung received his undergraduate education in Integrated Biology at UC Berkeley and his teaching credential from California State University, Hayward. In 2003, he earned a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Teacher Education from Stanford University. A lifelong teacher in Oakland, Mr. Cheung has made significant contributions to the Oakland Unified School District in areas of curriculum, teacher recruitment, new teacher support, and academic content standards. As a teacher leader, he led the *Curriculum in Focus Project* which designed and disseminated science curriculum to middle school teachers. He has also written curriculum for various other projects including the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta and UC Berkeley.

In 2000, Mr. Cheung became the first teacher in Oakland to earn certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. He has since served on the National Board's Science Standards Committee and Certification Council. His work with the National Board is applied at the school level where he serves as a teaching coach. In 2002, Mr. Cheung was named Marcus Foster Educational Institute

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Distinguished Educator of the Year and in 2005 received the California Space Authority Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching for California.

Mr. Cheung was appointed to the Commission by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2006. His term expires in November 2009.

Ms. Gaston is the founder, President and Executive Director of the Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning, a public policy organization focused on strengthening the teacher workforce statewide. She oversees the Center's leadership and administration, finances, communications, development, planning, project management, accountability and networking.

Each year the Center researches and publishes key issues and trends on the status of the teaching profession in California. This year marks the tenth report by the Center.

Prior to establishing the Center, Ms. Gaston was a special consultant to philanthropic organizations, advising foundation program officers, presidents and board members on grant making to public education and education support entities. She has also served as a consultant and administrator for the California Department of Education, overseeing the School Improvement Program (SIP), School Program Quality Review, Community Education, and other school reform efforts before starting her own consulting firm.

At the local level, Ms. Gaston has been an elementary classroom teacher, categorical programs coordinator, and a high school vice principal. She received San Diego State University's Distinguished Alumni Award for 2007 from the College of Education for her work in education policy directed toward improving teaching in high need schools serving English language learners and economically disadvantaged students of color.

Ms. Gaston was appointed to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing in 2006 by Governor Schwarzenegger. Her term expires in November 2009.

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